Setting up of National Quality Council

1950. SHRI G.Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up National Quality Council (NQC), a high-level autonomous body which will monitor and accredit companies for meeting mandatory standards of production, to replace the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS);

(b) if so, its broad features, composition and functions;

(c) whether the European Union is expected to provide some funds for the project; if so, how much and the nature of expert, technical and other assistance, likely to be given by it; and

(d) how far will it differ from the existing BIS as a policy making body?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (d) The matter of Setting up of National Quality Council (NQC) is still under the consideration of the Government. However, it is not envisaged to replace the Bureau of Indian Standards, which is functioning as per BIS Act 1986.

Consumer cases in the country

1951. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHAR MA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUP PLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge pile-up of consumer cases in the country at present;

(b) if so, details thereof, state-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that frequent adjournments of consumer cases by presiding officers lead to delays; and

(d) whether Government are considering to amend the consumer court procedure to avoid delay; details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUP PLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry compiles such information on quarterly basis. Based on the information available, a statement has been prepared and is given as Annexure. *[See* Appendix 173, Annexure No. 45]

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) This aspect could be taken care of under the present provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 and the Rules framed thereunder itself.

Sugar Released through PDS

1952. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: WU1 the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the actual proportion of the total releases of sugar that have been released through the Public Distribution System during 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95; and

(b) whether Gvoernment have any proposal to revert to the arrangements prevalent in the early decades following independence when 65 to 70 per cent of sugar released was through Public Distribution System?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Under the present policy of partial control, being followed continuously since 17.12.1979, a specified percentage of the total production of each sugar factory is procured as levy sugar at notified ex-factory prices for distribution through the public Distribution System at a uniform retail issue price throughout the country. The ratio of levy to free sale sugar during the last four years in given as under:—

Sugar Season (October to September)	Ratio of Levy	Freesale
1991-92	45	55

1992-95	40	60
1993-	40	60
1994-	40	60

However, due to various incentive schemes, under which higher free sale quota is being allowed to factories covered under those schemes, the effective levy, freesale ratio presently is about 33:67.

(b) At present, there is no proposal under consideration to change the levy-frecsale ratio of 40:60.

Extending Jurisdiction of Consumer Courts

1953. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is consid ering extending the jurisdiction of the Consumer Courts in the country;

(b) the number of Consumer Courts functioning at different levels in the country;

(c) whether Government has considered the need for more consumer Courts in view of the growing number of cases; and

(d) if so, whether there are proposals to establish more Consumer Courts?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL CUP-PLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) A working Group has been set up to suggest amendments in the Consumer Protection Act and Rules to make implementation of the consumer protection Act, 1986 more effective and ensure smooth and effective functioning of consumer courts.

(b) A National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission at the National level, 31 State Commissions and 457 District fora are already functioning in the country. The State of Jammu & Kashmir has adopted the Jammu & Kashmir Consumer Protection Act, 1987. State-wise position is indicated in the statement enclosed, *(see* below)

(c) and (d) The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 has already been amended through the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Act, 1993 empowering the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to set up additional District Fora in a District depending upon the workload. However, the decision to establish the additional District Fora lies solely with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

Statement

Position of Implementation of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986

State/UT	Position of State Commission	No. of Districts	Position of District Forums
Andhra Pradesh	Functioning	23	22 Functioning
Arunachal Pradesh	Functioning	12	12 Functioning
Assam	Functioning	23	23 Functioning
Gujarat	Functioning	20	20 Functioning
Bihar	Functioning	50	39 Functioning
Goa	Functioning	2	2 Functioning
Haryana	Functioning	16	16 Functioning
Himachal Pradesh	Functioning	12	12 Functioning